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Is Hawaii an Independent See or Merely an Ordinary Diocese?

Editor Advertiser: The Diocesan Mag- tasteful to the Bishop. Does he rememdefense of the position taken by the and this action to his clergy? the transfer of this Diocese to the Ameri- the ministry.

that its Bishop may not be removed or of England has given him authority.

would be no argument to say that a See property.

justified, under the circumstances, in by such? making so large a grant of mission funds by such? We are today in a dilemma. The great

must not be overestimated.

It should be remembered, and it may ordinary Bishops. In ordinary cases a power to deprive him, and which he does Bishop's jurisdiction covers all the Epis- not mean to resign. copal residents within the geographical boundaries of his Diocese, but England has not granted this authority to the Bishop of Honolulu, because she had no power to confer upon a Bishop, in a foreign country, any jurisdiction or authority over any persons, against their will. Therefore the Bishop's flock here consists only of those persons wishing for his ministrations and assenting to his au-thority.

Since 1864 the British Government has ed of an independent Legislature. of the Privy Council in England, pro- Christ's kingdom. claims this Church to be a voluntary as-sociation; and although on the first arrival of a Bishop here, all those persons who wished for the ministrations of the Church of England gave assent to the Bishop's jurisdiction, by implication, since that time many have withdrawn their allegiance, some have associated themselves with other religious bodies, some have not, and have attended no place of worship, while there are many others who now wish to withdraw their alle-

giance in favor of an American Bishop. For argument sake say that only onehalf of the Episcopalians here voluntarily accept the ministrations of the Bishop of Honolulu and assent to his authority, it is clear that the other half are without Episcopal oversight and are as sheep without a shepherd. Therefore only onehalf this missionary jurisdiction can be claimed by the Bishop as his, since his jurisdiction covers but one-half of its church residents. It is clear then that the Bishop's jurisdiction and authority is limited to those persons who remain loyal to his authority, and should there be none loyal, the Bishop would be without a Diocese, although occupying the See, while the people would be without Episcopal ministrations. This would appear to be anomalous, but it cannot be denied. Can it be argued then, that the status of the Bishop of Honolulu or of this mission is such as to entitle either him or it to those rights properly belonging

to ordinary dioceses? It may be said, and with apparent justice, that if the people refuse the minis-trations of the Bishop provided by Eng-land they should forfeit their right to Episcopal ministrations. But England has given them the choice and they are surely justified in taking it. There have been many persons who would not consent to receive confirmation at the hands of the Bishop of Honolulu, and parents who would not permit their children to do so. Is it in accordance with the intention of the Church of England that such persons should forfeit their Church privileges? A whole Church does not become disaffected without a cause, and, usually, a good one.

still so much of the animal life in him though people may be led in Church mat--that contentment depends not a lit- ters, they will not bear being driven. The

> The weak point in the Bishop's argument would appear to be that he claims this mission to be an independent church, and for the Bishop of Honolulu the same authority and Episcopal jurisdiction over this mission that is enjoyed by English Wholesale Grocers and Designs in or American Bishops in their Dioceses, over which they exercise full Episcopal control. This contention is impossible to maintain, because such authority has not been conferred upon him. If the Church of England had not the

power to confer on the Bishop of Honolulu Episcopal jurisdiction over all churchmen in this mission, it certainly could not confer upon him an Episcopal status that would, on any ecclesiastical principle, forbid the entrance of another Bishop to administer the Episcopal rites to those persons who declined the offices of the Bishop of Honolulu. To do this would be practically, to invest him with coercive authority, since he would then have the power of depriving people of

their Church privileges. The observance of primitive usage and Anglican Churchman on the solving of difficult questions in other precedent may be, and is, most useful in dioceses, where such limitations of Episcopal authority have been unknown, but it is not reasonable to suppose that they can be of equal force in this mission, if at all applicable.

The Bishop of Honolulu certainly should not complain if the Church in England or America deal with him and this mission without reference to primitive usage or precedent, since he himself has ever ignored both primitive usage and precedent in his dealings with his clergy and people, and has refused to recognize the existence of the authority, on which he now seeks to build a claim to the recognition by the American Church, of what he considers to be his "inherent rights."

azine for this month contains an able ber how often he has applied these words

Inherent rights and primitive usage are Bishop of Honolulu on the question of equally applicable to the three orders of

can Church. It is not, however, altogether impregnable.

The Bishop will not question the justice of those words, "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." The Bishop bases his argument chiefly It is quite clear, too, that if the Bishop on ecclesiastical principle, primitive usage of Honolulu has any power as a mission-and precedent ary Bishop of the Church of England, acting under its authority, to treat for He seeks to show that a See once the transfer of this mission, he, and the founded by the Catholic Church, may Synod, can only deal with the interests

not be permitted to become extinct, and of those persons over whom the Church The Bishop of Honolulu states that the disturbed in the exercise of his Episco- Church of England does not own a foot pal jurisdiction therein; and that there- of land in the Islands; legally speaking, fore, in the absorption of this mission by this is true, but it should not be forgotten the American Church, it is obligatory on that the cathedral property and three of that church not only to perpetuate the the main outlying missions on the other Islands, were given, in Bishop Staley's See but to preserve its integrity.

While, no doubt, it is true that it has time, to the joint mission of the churches not been the practice of the Catholic in America and England, under the name Church to dissolve Sees, nor yet to re- of the "Reformed Catholic Church," move or disturb the Bishops in such which name covered both branches of the Sees, yet no evidence can be brought to church. Bishop Willis had its charter bear in support of the argument that a amended, the effect of which was to See may not be dissolved, if it should be transfer this property from the joint trust considered necessary by the church; nor to the Anglican Church of Hawaii, thereyet that a Bishop is so irrevocably fixed by excluding American interests. Morally to his See that its integrity must be speaking, the church both in England and preserved for the Bishop's benefit. It America should have an interest in this

may not be dissolved, because it has not been the practice of the Catholic Church Bishop's rights in this mission, and his to dissolve Sees. It would be a suicidal status as its Bishop, of such a nature policy on the part of any institution to that the American church would feel it solved, if changing conditions should render its existence a menace to the life of the terms of the admission of this misthe enterprise.

solved, if changing conditions should renstances, to treat with the Bishop as to the terms of the admission of this mission into the American Change Bought and Sold. create an office that might not be a.s. incumbent upon it, under existing circum-Owing to the weakness of this Diocese, ceive this mission in its integrity, or to a resident Bishop is not really necessary, perpetuate this See, or to decline placing at present at least, and since the Ameri-

can Church has not the advantage of an Church has not the advantage of an tion of an American Bishop?

S. P. G. for a "handmaid," it is not probable that the Mission Board would feel dependent church, or as an ordinary diojustified, under the circumstances, in cese, and entitled to the rights enjoyed making so large a grant of mission funds by such?

The Bishop of Honolulu takes exception majority of the people are dissatisfied to the Bishop of New York and the sec-retary of the S. P. G. referring to his Diocese as the "Church work in Hono-admission into the American Church unlulu," and at the manner it is proposed der the administration of an American to deal with his Diocese and his rights. Bishop. The growth of the mission in Has his Lordship good ground for so do- spiritual life and membership has, for five and twenty years, been abnormally The Bishop, unquestionably, has certain small, if there has been growth at all. It rights in this Diocese, which will, no is generally conceded that a great reac-doubt, be respected by the American tion would follow a change of adminis-Church; but the value of those rights tration, which is very generally desired. On the other hand, the Bishop of Honolulu claims the right of negotiating not be generally known, that the Bishop with the American Church as to the of Honolulu has never had authority terms on which this Diocese shall be ad-given him by the Church of England to mitted into that organization, one condiexercise Episcopal jurisdiction over all tion being that he be received with it as churchmen in these Islands, but only ov- its Bishop. He insinuates that otherwise er such of them as wish for his ministra-tions and assent to his authority. He changed, that his position here is one of stands on quite a different footing from which the American Church has not the

It would seem to resolve itself into the question of the well-being and extension of the church at the expense of the Bishop, or the well-being and gratification of the Bishop at the expense of the church. This would seem to be the dilemma,

The American Church, on receiving a transfer of authority from the Church of England, will, no doubt, deal with this difficulty in a calm, just and dignified way, weighing well its merits with a due consideration to all rights invested in the discontinued the issue of letters patent to premises; yet as the builders and guar-Bishops in countries or colonies possess-dians of a great church, with the one ed of an independent Legislature. The Constitution of the Anglican glory of Almighty God, the well-being of Church in Hawaii, as well as the voice His church and the building up of

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